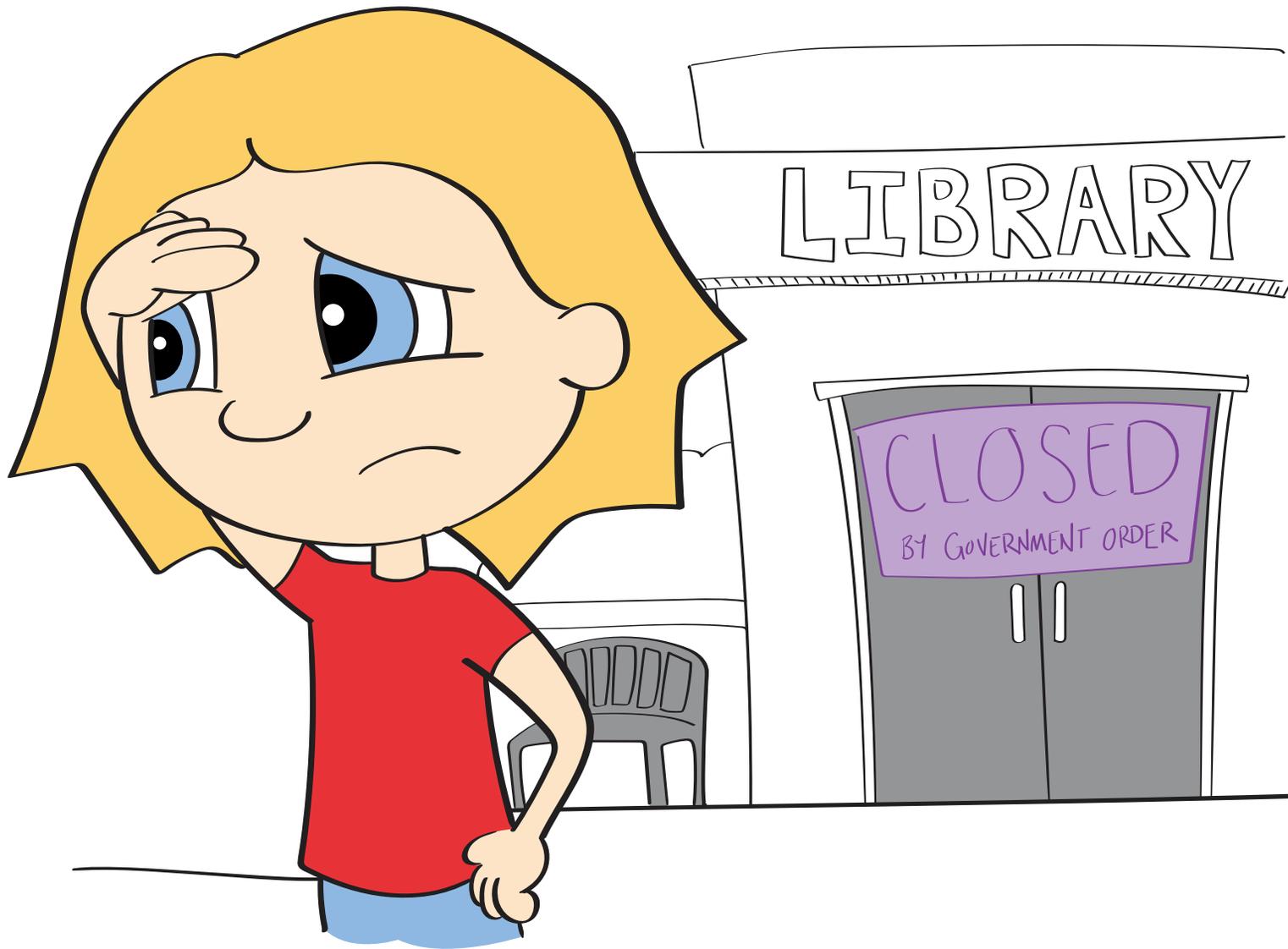


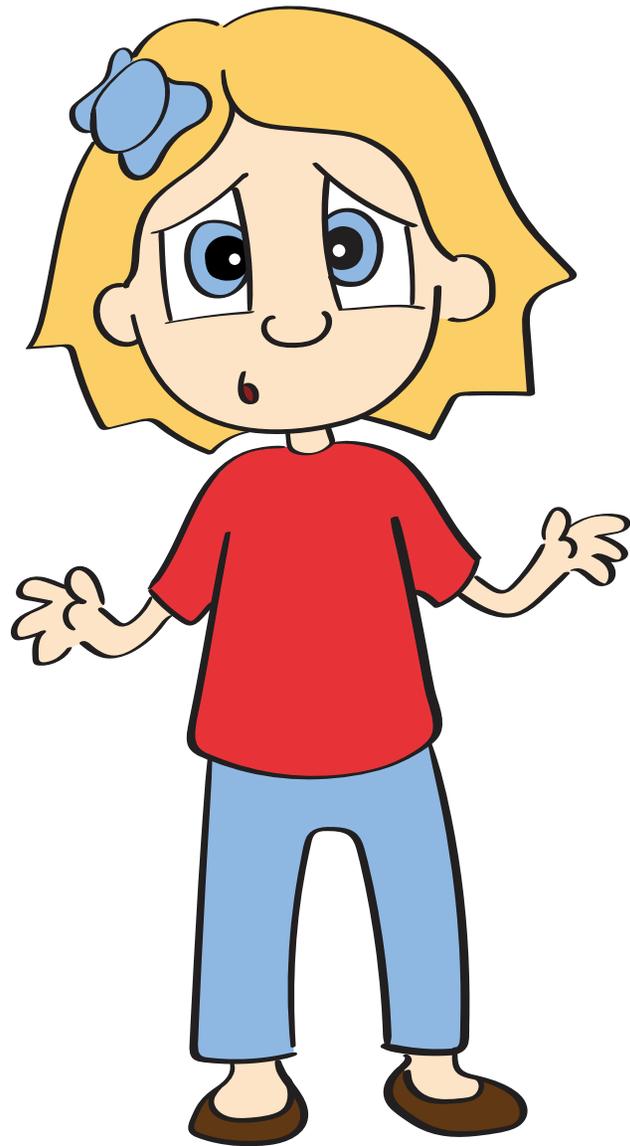
Has Anyone Seen Normal?

A CORONAVIRUS TALE



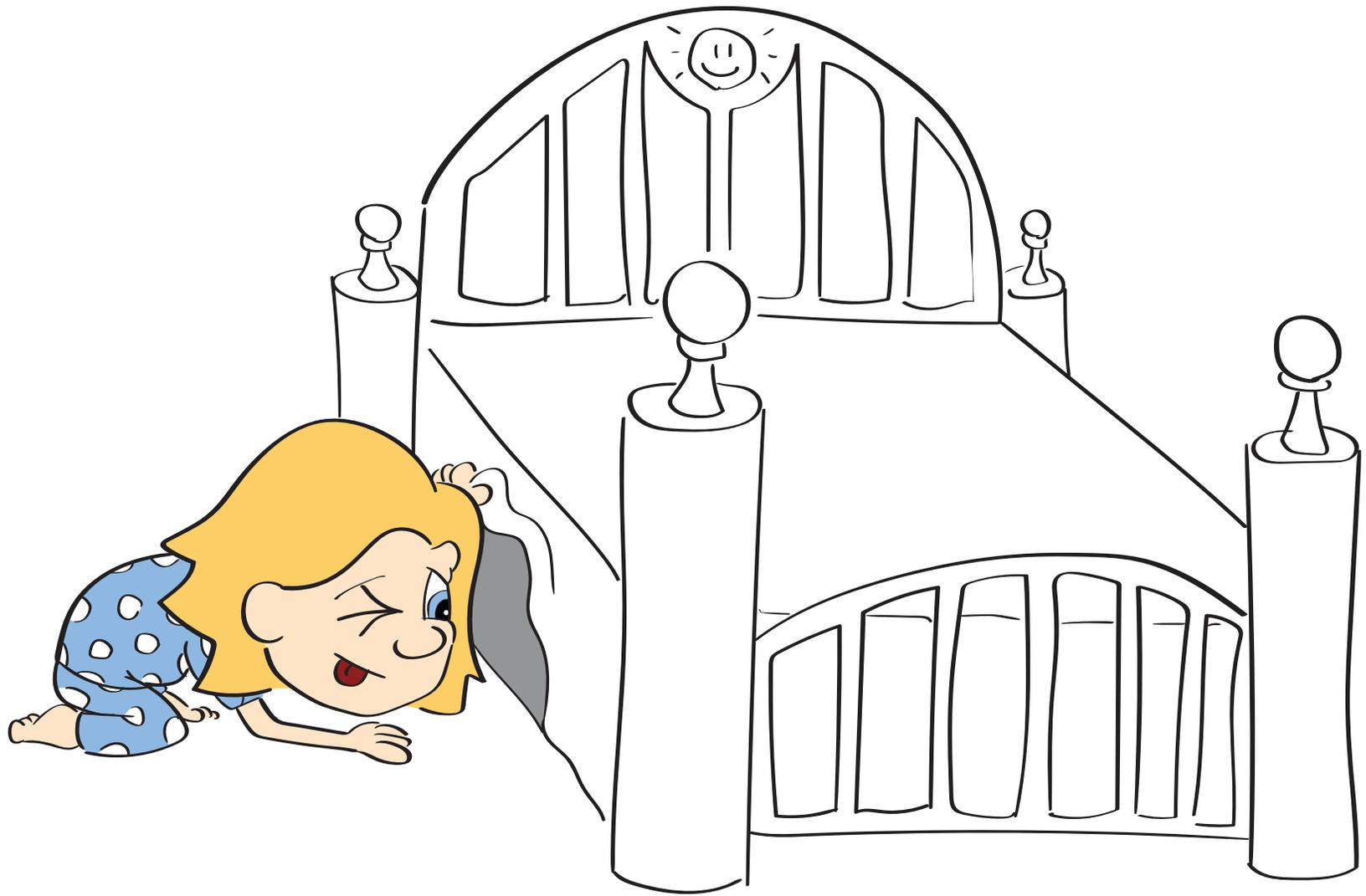
By Lacy and Ace Stryker



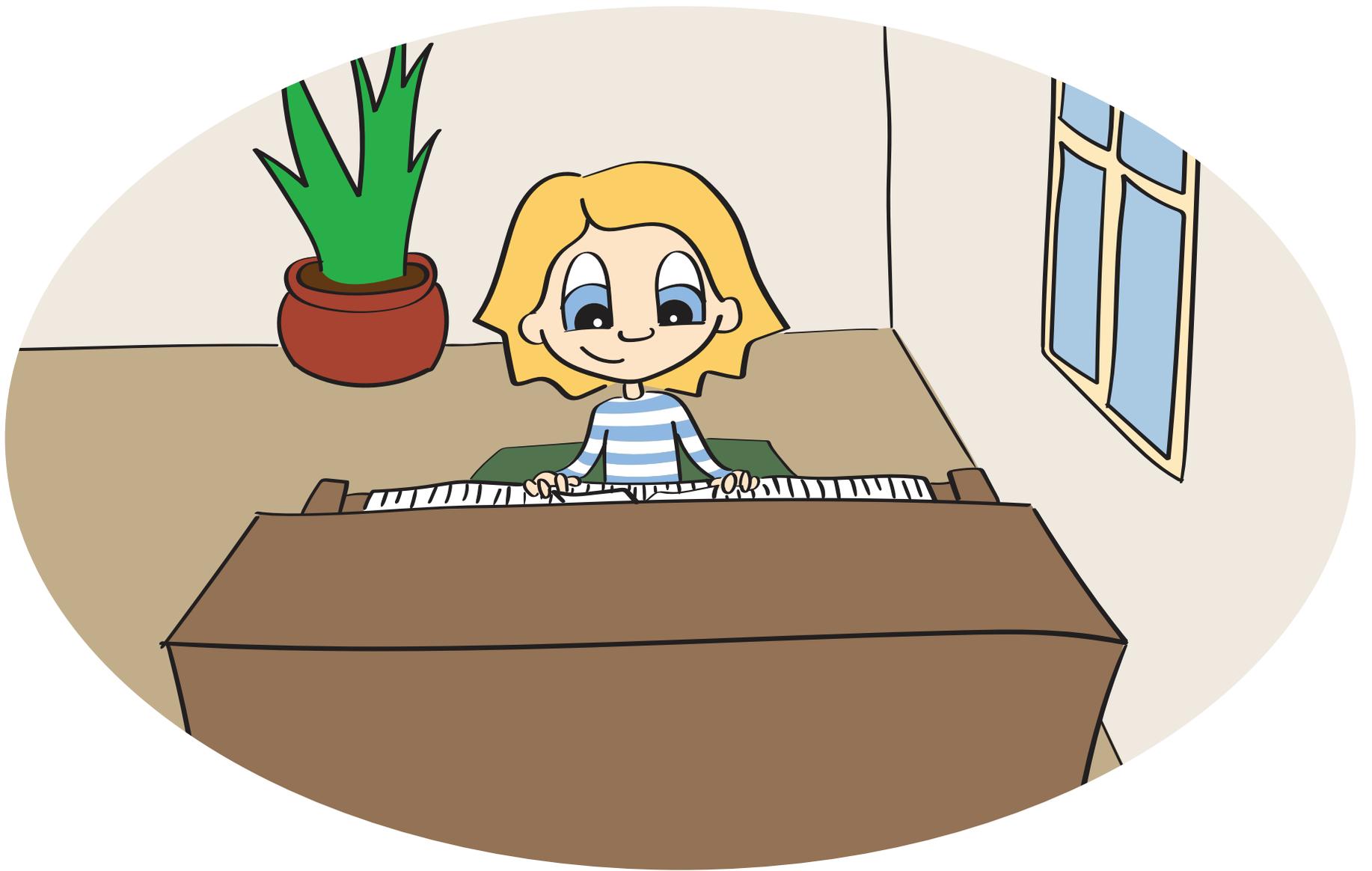


Have you seen Normal?

He's been missing for days.



He was there last Thursday
at my piano lesson.

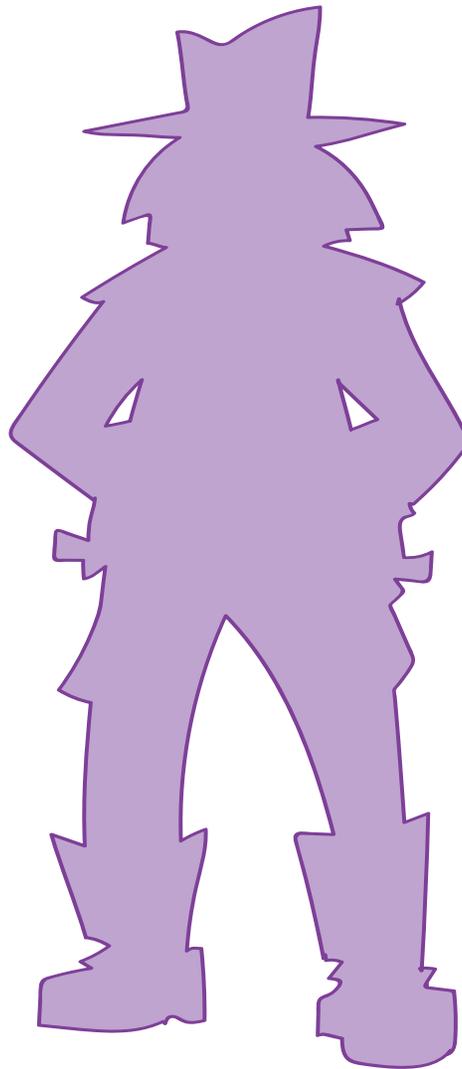


But when it was time to bake on Saturday,
Normal was gone.
It just isn't like him to not show up.



I really miss him.
Do you know when Normal is coming back?

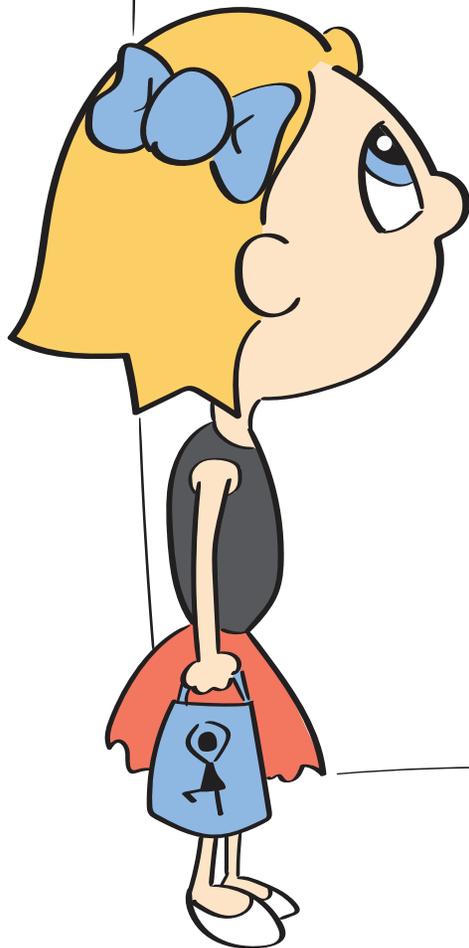
The last time I saw him was six days ago.
I remember because it was the same day
that guy came to town.

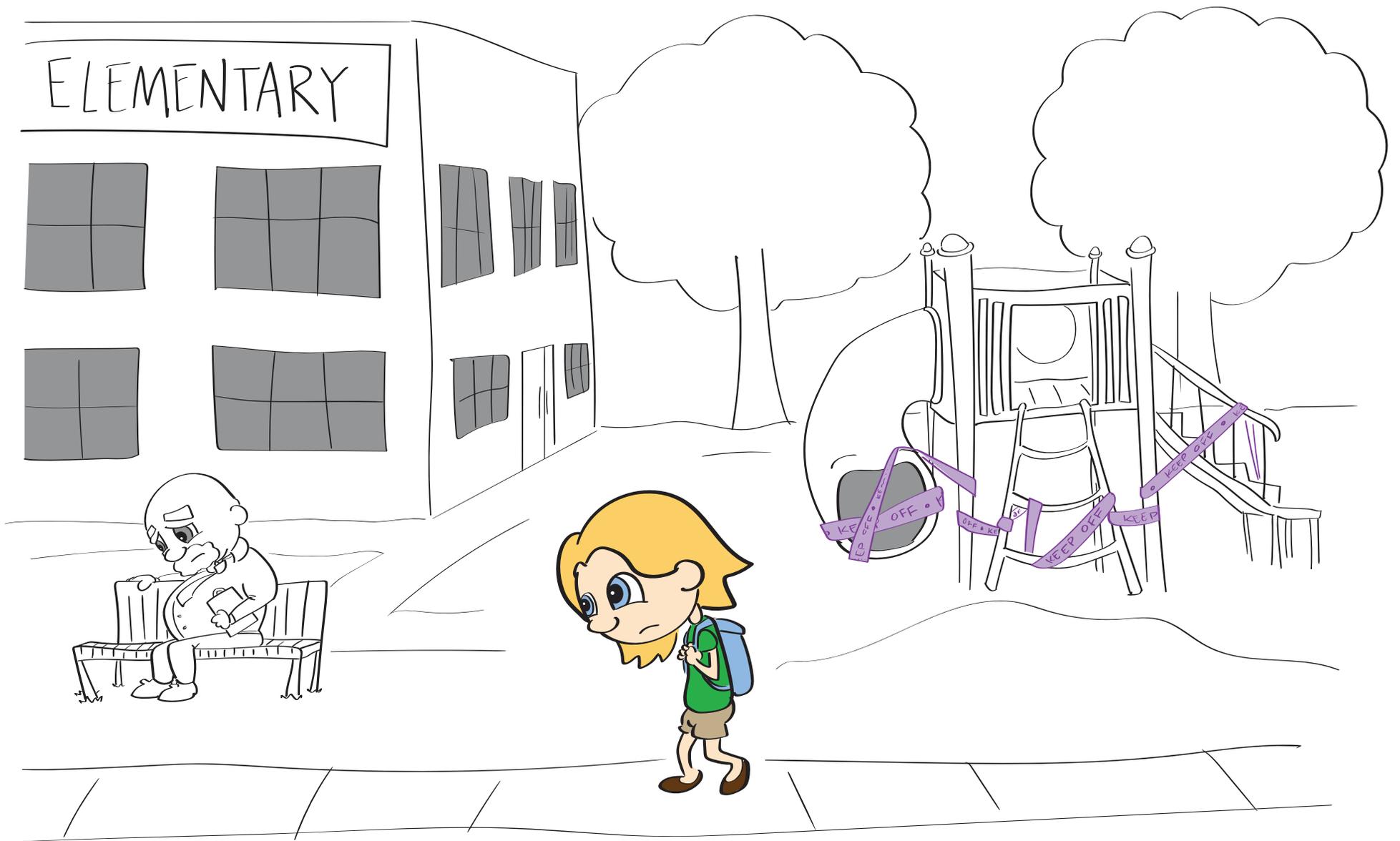


That guy over there; his name is Chaos.
And nothing has been the same since he
showed up.

When he came to town, people started to get sick.

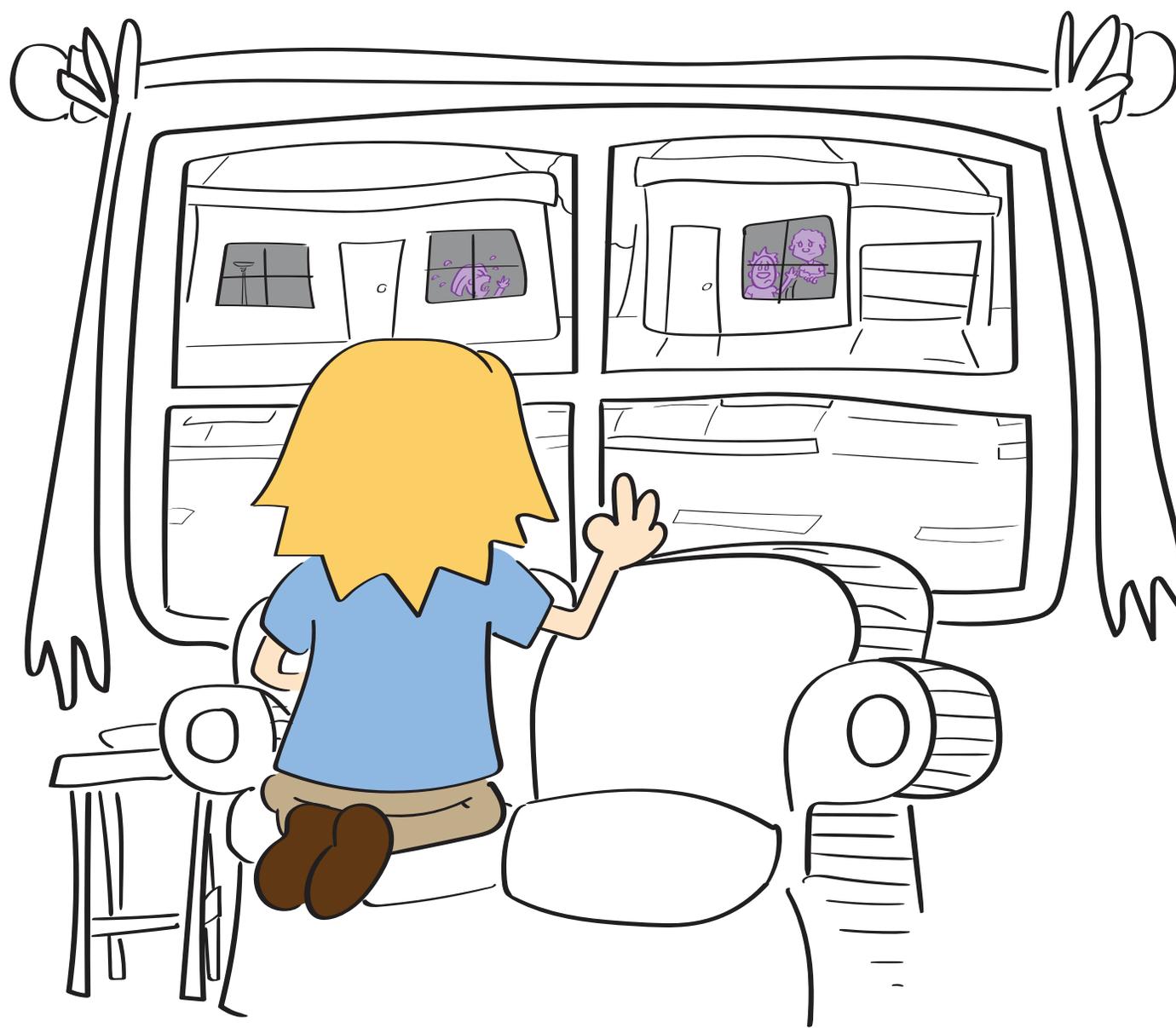
The first thing he did was close down
dance class, piano lessons, and vacations.





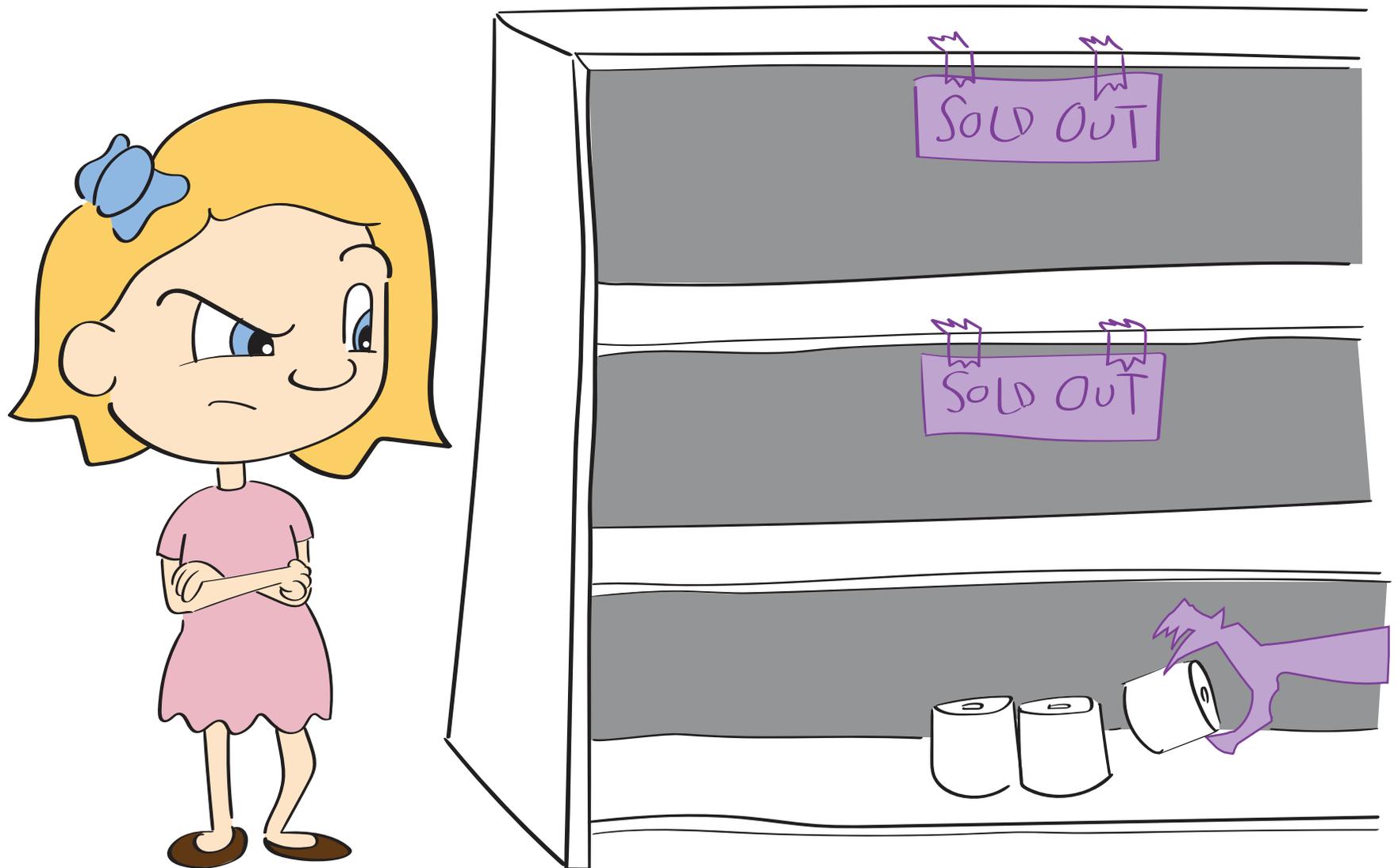
Then Chaos kicked everyone out of school.
The students, the teachers, even the principal!

But he didn't stop there. Chaos said
I couldn't play with Jen for a while.
No Tony or Chrissy; no kids on my block.

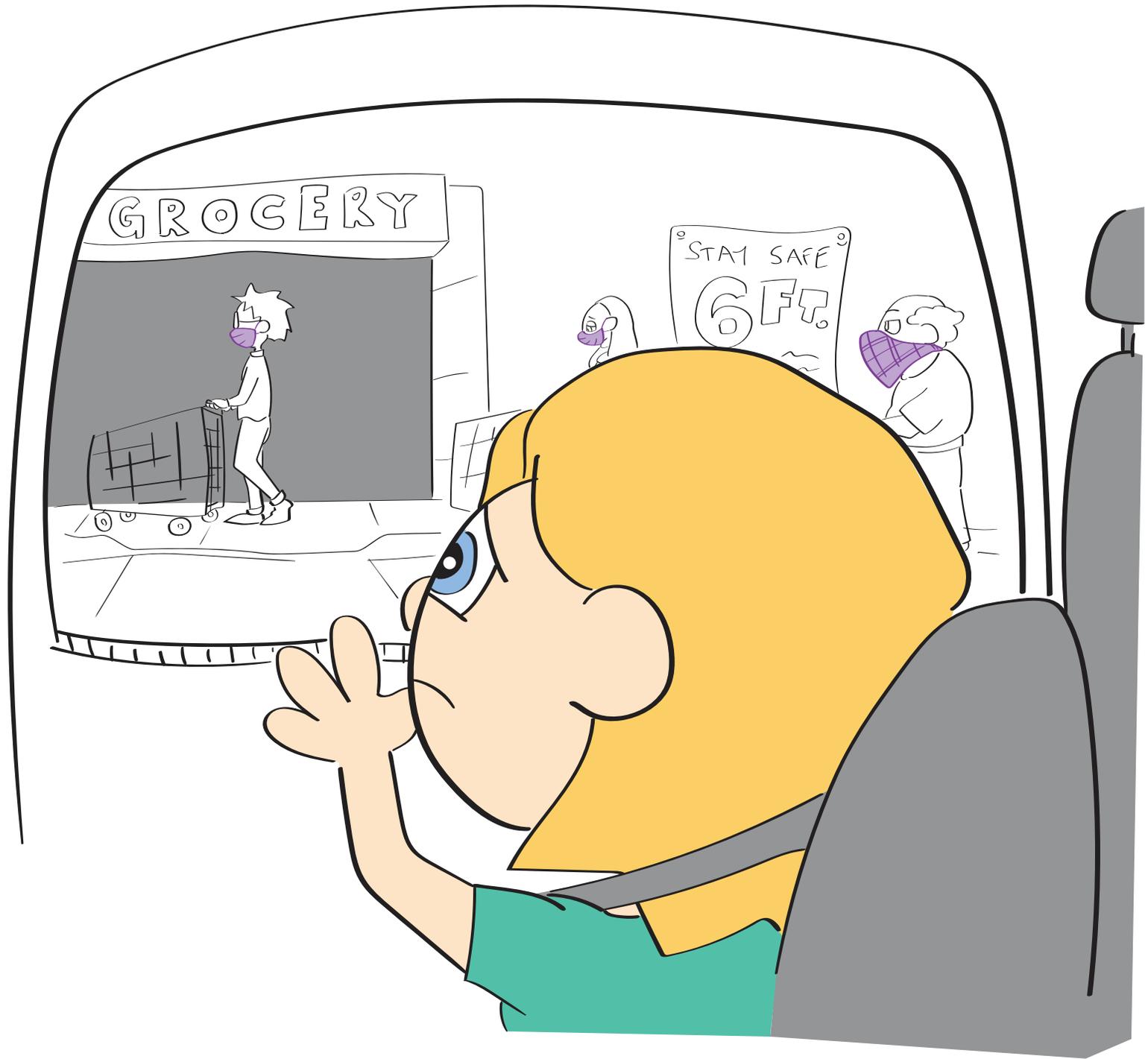


I stare out the window and wonder:
Where has Normal gone?

Chaos closed down the zoo, the library,
and the playgrounds. Not much is the same.



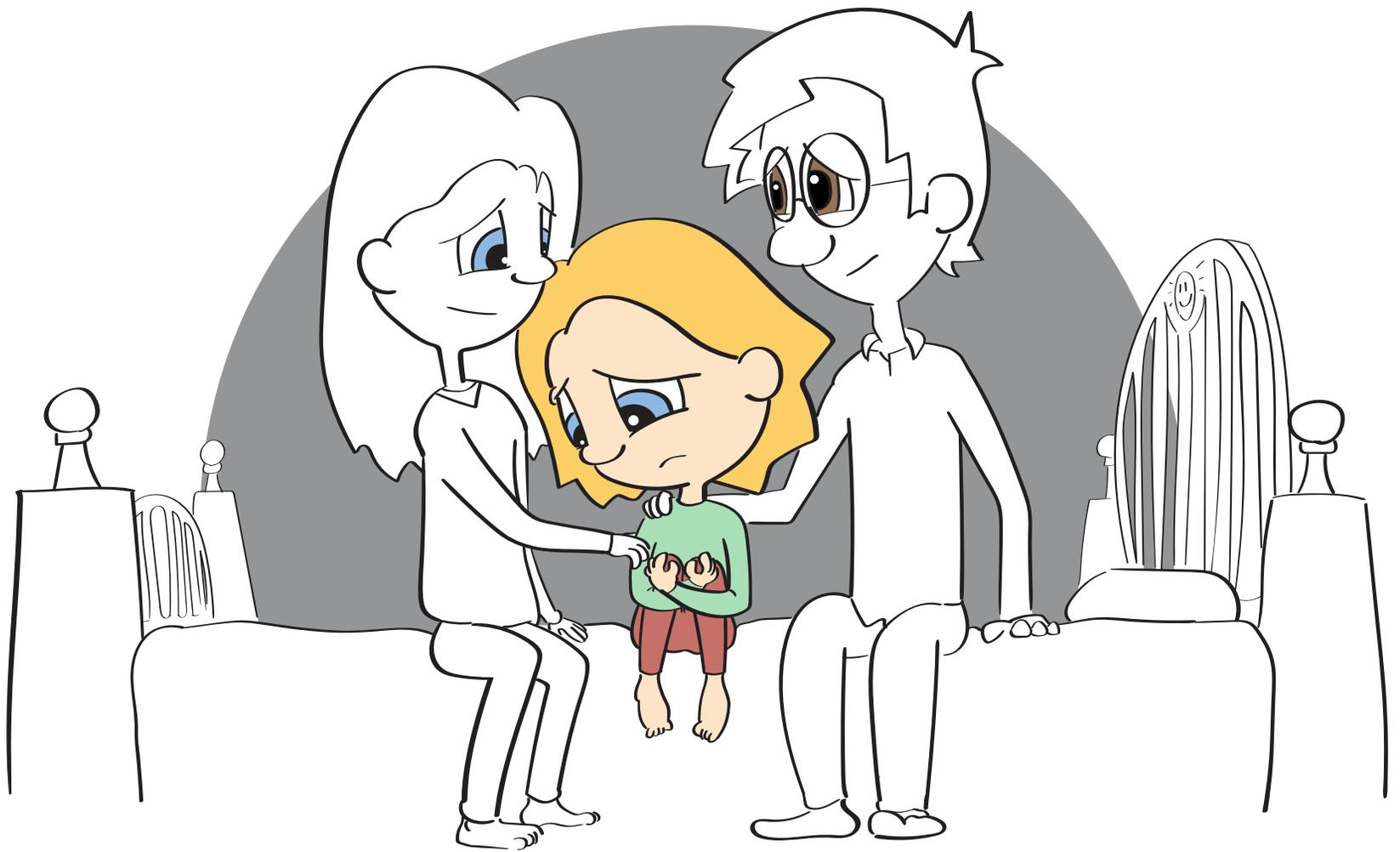
Many good things are gone.
Things like friends and parties
and even toilet paper.



I wonder if Chaos scared
Normal away with those masks
everyone's wearing these days.

Mom and Dad keep saying,
“It won’t always be like this.”

But what if Chaos is here to stay?
Will he scare everyone away?

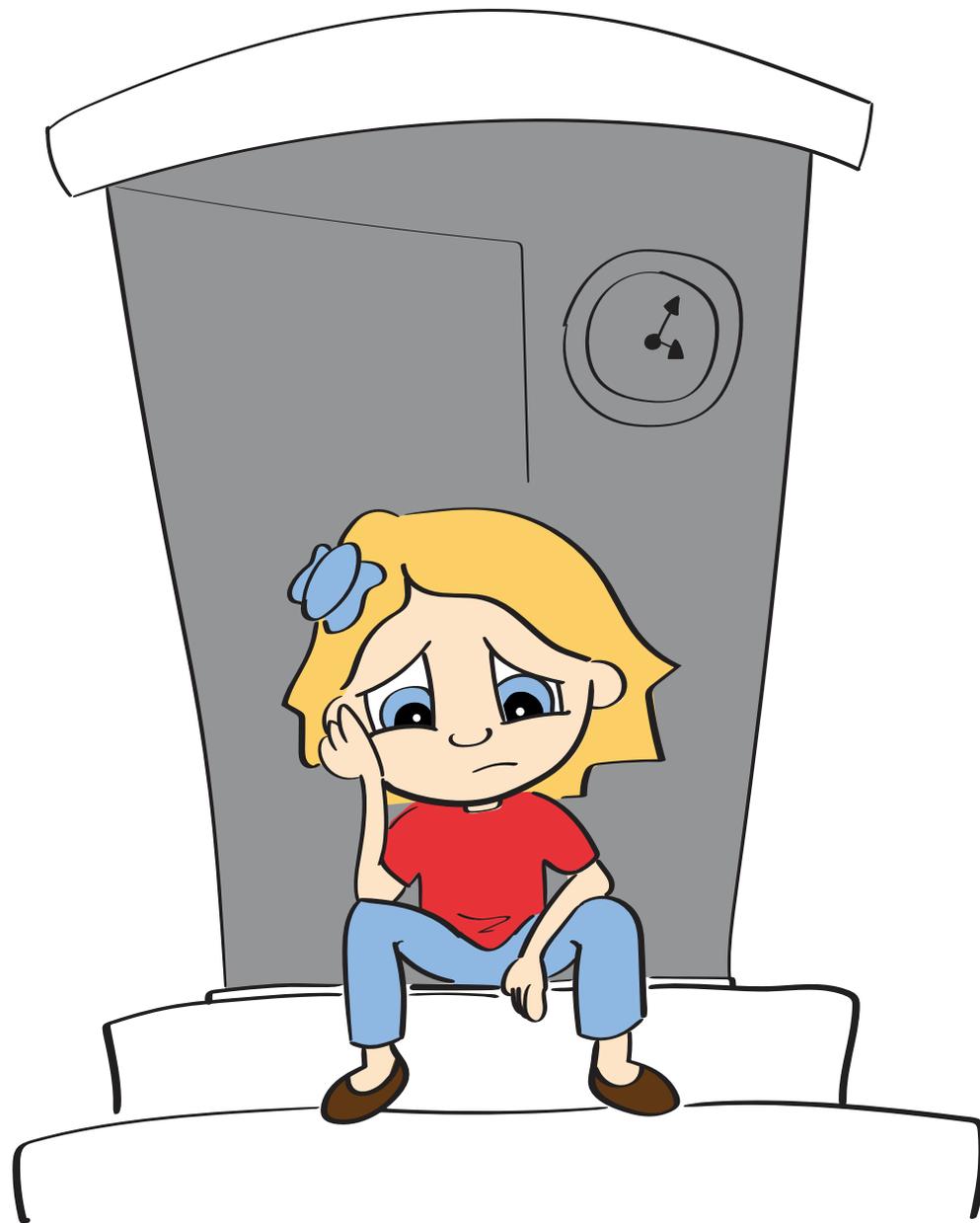


Hasn't anyone seen Normal?!

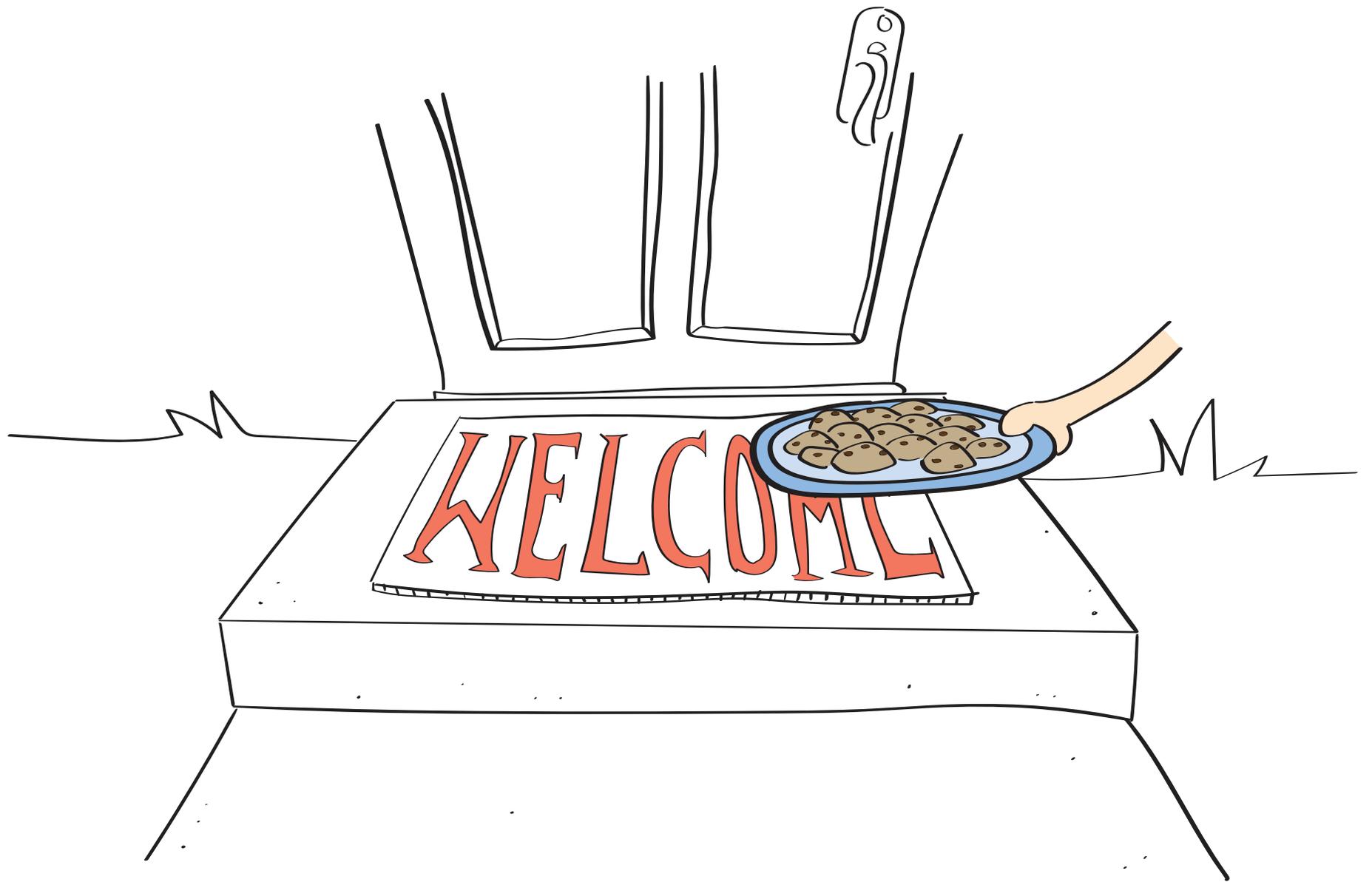


Maybe I can try to do the things
I liked before. But in a different way.

Would it feel like Normal
was still here?

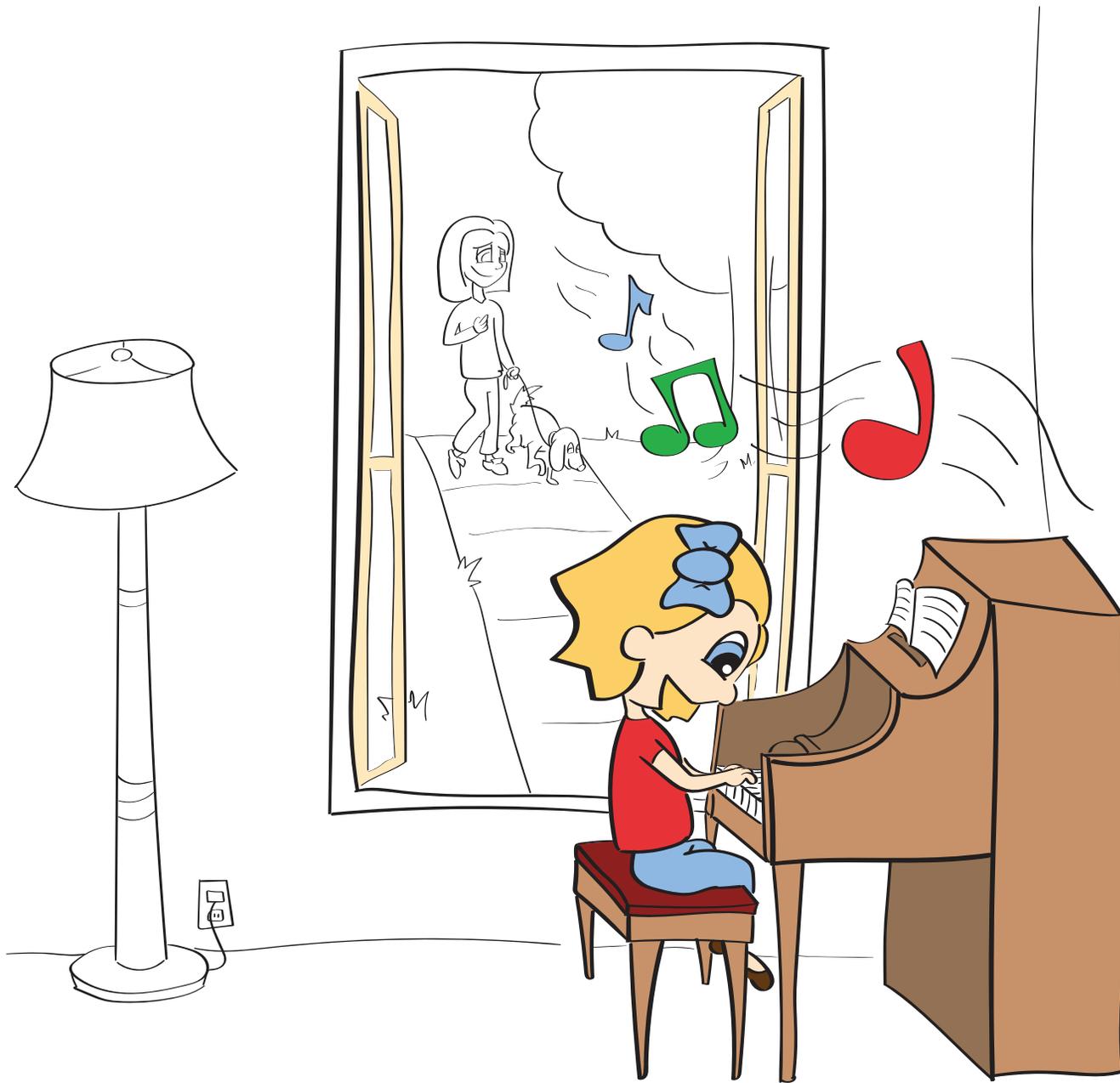


Chaos told everyone to stay away,
but maybe I can leave some cookies
on the doorstep of Patti and Dave.





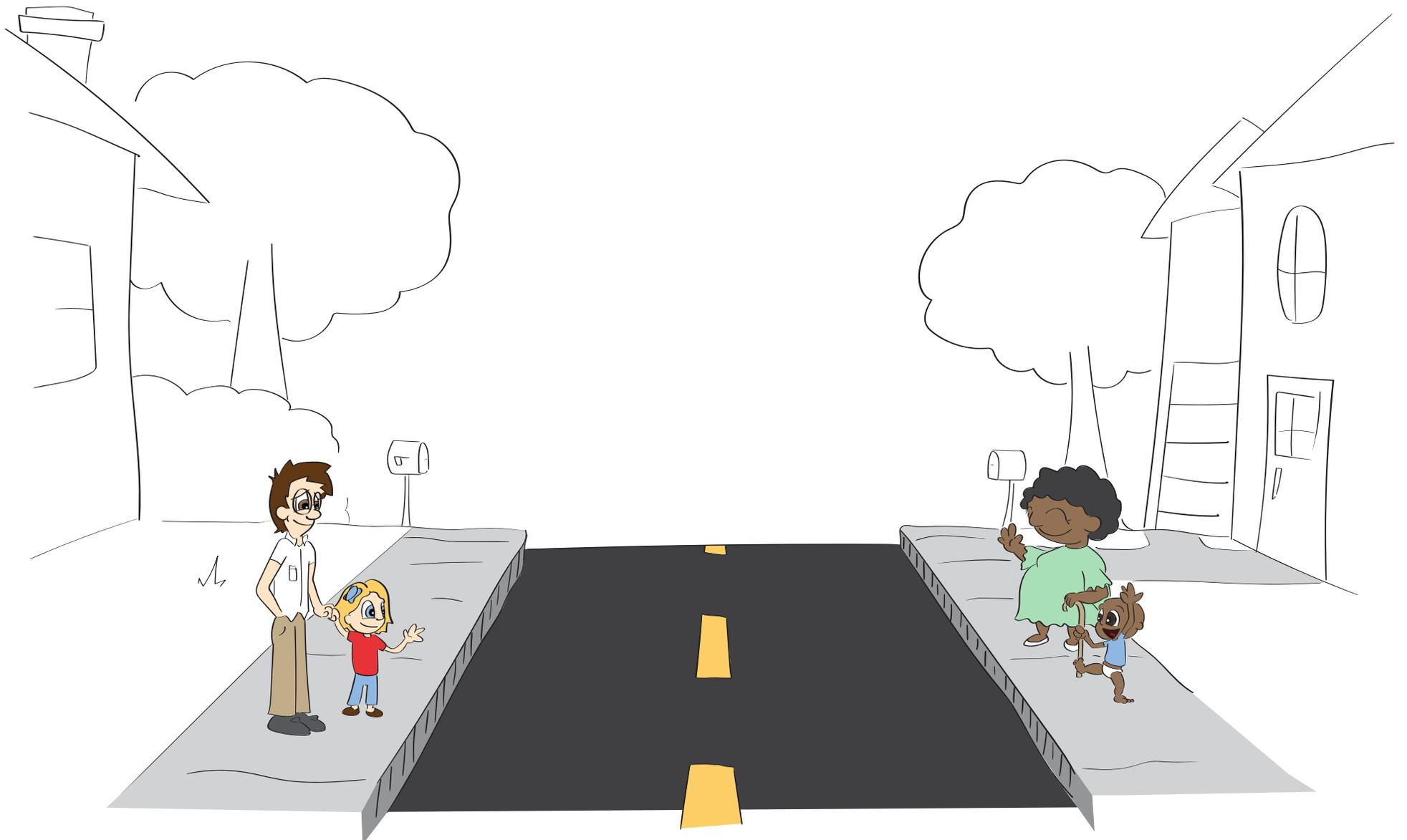
Normal and I liked to draw silly things,
so maybe I can draw pictures for the cars
driving past.



And since my piano recital is canceled,
maybe I can open my windows and play
for my neighbors as they walk by.

Is it true what they say,
that a smile goes a long way?

Because there is a lot of
distance between us these days.



Still, things are starting
to feel almost... Normal?!



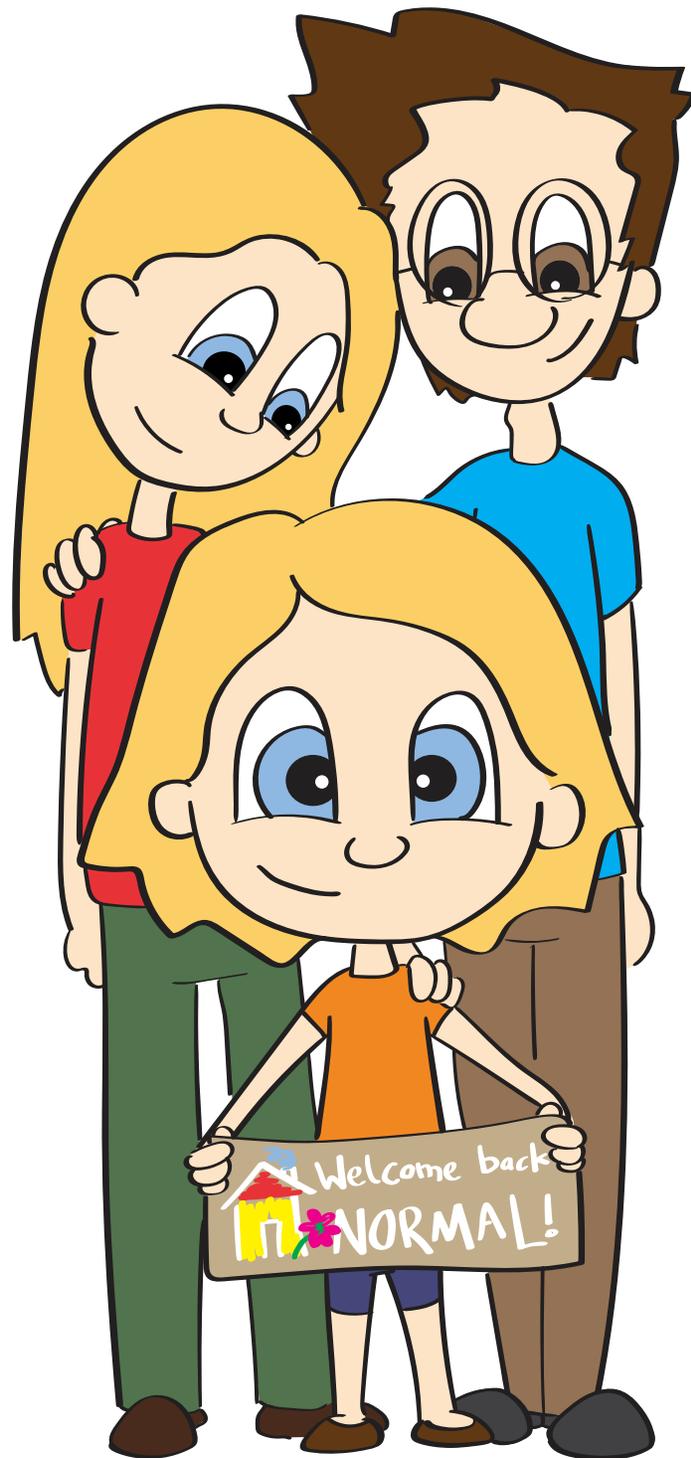
Normal, is that you? You look so different.
What happened to you?

Chaos is still here. He hasn't gone away.
But guess what? I'm happy anyway.

I learned I can be happy,
even when things
aren't the same.



You have changed, Normal.
But I have changed too.



The authors have made this book available for free to young readers and their parents.

If you enjoyed it, please consider a donation to a nonprofit organization that supports COVID-19 response and relief efforts.

For a list of recommended charities, visit <https://stryker.fm/normal>



(You can also download a free high-resolution version of this book there.)

Thanks for reading!

